(b) the reasons for these losses;

(c) whether there is any proposal for its merger with some other Public Sector Undertakings and if so, details thereof; and

(d) whether there is any other proposal to lease it to some private party in case there are no takers from any of the Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPLLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) HVOC has been incurring losses since 1991-92 as indicated below:

| Year | Loss (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 4.56 |
| 1992-93 | 3.53 |
| 1993-94 (Provisional) | 10.00 |

(b) After delicensing of Vanaspati industry, a number of new units nave come up which have been given sales tax exemption. This has rendered the older units unviable. Also the refining and packing of imported edible oils for the Public Distribution has declined steeply due to non import of crude edible oils and reduction in import of refined edible oils. These are the main reasons for the losses.

(c) and (d) A number of alternatives, including merger with other undertakings, are under consideration of the Government . No final decision has been taken.

**Supply of coffee through PDS**

1761. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to supply coffee through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Coffee Board has resolved to release 5,000 tonnes of coffee to some of the States for its distribution through the Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, what are the names of such States; and

(d) what will be the price at which coffee will be distributed through Public Distribution System ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) The Central Government has no proposal at present to supply coffee through the Public Distribution System (PDS). An Association of Coffee growers has offered to make available 2000 tonnes of pure coffee beans at a reasonable price to the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu for distribution through the PDS. The Association has suggested that the coffee may be drawn from the coffee pooled with the Coffee Board for immediate distribution but has not indicated the price at which they will supply the coffee. They have also not indicated the time by which they will replace the coffee to be issued by the Coffee Board. State Governments can add any item of mass consumption as per local needs and consumer preferences for distribution through the PDS.

Removing packaging restrictions on consumer consumption items

1762. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove packaging restriction on some items of consumer consumption; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue to consumer and the manufacturing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

'SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) An amendment was made in the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to delete certain items from the Third Schedule of the Rules, by notification GSR No. 591 dated 20 July, 1994. The items deleted from the Third Schedule are now free from the restriction of pack sizes, and hence may be packed in any quantities.

(b) A list of the items deleted from the Third Schedule is given in the Statement (*See* below)| As a result of removing the restriction of pack sizes, consumers will get a large number of sizes for selection according to their need and choice. Further, the indigenous manufacturers will be able to decide the sized according to consumer preferences and will have better opportunity to compete with foreign goods in domestic as well as in foreign markets. They are also free from unnecessary bureaucratic controls.

**Statement**

*List of Items deleted from the Third Schedule of the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 vide GSR No. 591 dated 20-7-94.*

| S. No. | Commodities |
|---|---|
| 1 | Cheese |
| 2 | Cereal Products |
| 3 | Extruded ready to eat snacks of fluffy nature. |
| 4 | Cigarettes, Cigars and the like |
| 5 | Cleaning and Sanitary fluids |
| 6 | Cleaning Powders |
| 7 | Condensed Milk |
| 8 | Cocoa |
| 9 | Cosmetics and Perfumes including all creams except dental and shaving. |
| 10 | Hair oils (perfumed) |
| 11 | Hair oils (unperfumed) |
| 12 | Honey |
| 13 | Ice Cream (In bricks) |
| 14 | Ice Cream (In cups) |
| 15 | Jams, Sauces, Ketchup and the like |
| | (a) Ketchup, sauces and the like |
| | (b) Jams, marmalades and eellies in open top sanitycontainers. |
| | (c) Jams, marmalades and jellies in bottles. |
| | (d) Squashes, syrups and crushes |
| | (e) Fruit juices and vegetable juices in open top sanitary containers. |
| | (f) Fruit juices and vegetable juices in bottles. |
| | (g) Ready to serve beverages. |

| S. No. | Commodities |
|---|---|
| 16. | Milk-liquid)-sweetened, unsweetened, flavoured. |
| 17. | Nuts, bolts, nails, screws and the like (in boxes) |
| 18. | Shaving blades |
| 19. | Shaving cream |
| 20. | Mineral water |
| 21. | Spices |
| 22. | Sugar, sugar cubs, khandsari |
| 23. | Toffees, boiled confectionary and the like. |
| 24. | Chocolate and Chocolate products |
| 25. | Toothpaste |
| 26. | Zarda |
| 27. | Pan Masala |

**उत्तर प्रदेश में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के संबंध में गैर सरकारी समिति**

**1763. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या नागरिक, आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में राज्य स्तर पर सार्वजनकि वितरण प्रणाली के संबंध में किसी गैर-सरकारी समिति का गठन किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

**नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) :** (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

**इलाहाबाद में उपभोक्ता मामलों संबंधी समिति**

**1764. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने इलाहाबाद जिले में उपभोक्ता मामलों संबंधी कोई समिति गठित की है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

**नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद)** : (क) और (ख) केंद्रीय सरकार, नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनकि वितरण मंत्रालय ने उपभोक्ता मामलों के बारे में इलाहाबाद में कोई समिति गठित नहीं की है। तथापि, उपभोक्ता संरक्षण, अधिनियम, 1986 में उपभोक्ता शिकायतों पर शीघ्र प्रतितोष प्रदान करने के लिए राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में प्रत्येक जिले में एक उपभोक्ता विवाद प्रतितोष मंच गठित करने की परिकल्पना की गई है। ऐसे जिला मंच स्थापित करने की जिम्मेदारी पूर्णतः संबंधित राज्य सरकार की है।